

PLEASE SUPPORT AND  
STRENGTHEN LOCAL  
CABLE FRANCHISING,  
LOCAL CHANNELS,  
LOCAL CONTROL OF  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

DISCUSSION:

Before offering  
comments on the  
proposed rulemaking,  
let's refer to some  
simple concepts as a  
frame of reference:

Public Airwaves.  
Public Right-Of-Way.

Public Interest,  
Convenience, and  
Necessity.  
Public Trust.

Localism.  
Communications.  
Community.

Media Access. Media  
Literacy. Media  
Democracy.

Technology.  
Innovation.  
Competition.

Profit. Investment.

and Equity.

Dear Commissioners  
and staff of the  
FCC:

The proliferation  
of technological  
developments have  
brought new and  
interesting ideas  
and proposals.

And some bad  
ones, too. Really  
bad.

Commissioners,  
let's start here:

Any and all  
telecommunications  
technologies coming  
into local  
communities should  
also benefit local  
communities. It  
doesn't matter  
whether it is  
broadcast,  
broadband, cable,  
satellite, wireless,  
or wireline.

This is consistent with the main concepts that make for the foundation of the 1933 Telecommunications Act, of which the FCC was formed: assuring these mediums serve the Public Interest, Convenience, and Necessity.

The 1996 Telecommunications Act has, in time, apparently affirmed itself to undermining these concepts. Megamergers and consolidation commenced. True 'Competition' is at the least, only relative. Priceless 'public spectrum' has been auctioned off to the highest bidders, no equity turned over to local communities to mitigate the untold damage. Large telecom and broadcast outfits no longer had

requirements,  
incentives or  
compelling reasons  
to continue serving  
the public interest,  
convenience.

I am the proud  
son of a retired  
communications  
worker. Indeed  
there was much hope  
and excitement on  
what the future of  
telecommunications  
and innovations  
would bring.

I myself have gone  
on to work in and  
around the broadcast  
industry, watching  
these changes  
first-hand for most  
of my career,  
nearing 20 years  
now. Over 10 years  
ago I joined efforts  
with production and  
technology teams at  
the university level  
to test the use of  
'multi-media'  
technologies, such  
as digital video and  
streaming media. I  
for one am all for  
'pushing the

envelope', and challenge the traditional conventions. It is healthy to explore the limitations.

Through the years, I have come to recognize and affirm the value of maintaining localism in communications.

Local Franchising is one of way of assuring that telecommunications will continue serve Local Interests.

Lately there have been some ill-concieved proposals suggesting that Local Franchising is unnessesary, unfair, and a waste of time.

In 1999, while serving as a representative on the County-wide Telecommunications Task Force, I have come to fully understand the value

of maintaining local control in Telecommunications, especially with the fallout over the 1996 Act.

I will defer further details advocating for the value of Local Franchising to other colleagues, who have offered many excellent comments and perspectives. At the least, do know that I can authenticate their findings.

In closing, please preserve and strengthen our local franchising authorities in our communities. Thank you for helping to maintain local control in our telecommunications, that we can continue to serve the Public Interest, Convenience, and Necessity.

Very Truly Yours,

Clayton J.  
Leander  
Vallejo, CA